

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LISBON 02447 150812Z

11

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 IO-14 ISO-00 SAJ-01 SAM-01 OMB-01 NIC-01

ACDA-19 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 INR-10 LAB-06 NSAE-00

RSC-01 SIL-01 AID-20 SY-04 A-01 OPR-02 SCCT-02 CU-04

PM-07 H-03 L-03 NSC-07 PA-04 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 DRC-01 /199 W

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R 141555Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9825

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMEMBASSY OPORTO UNN

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA UNN

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION NATO

CINCLANT

USCINCEUR

USUN NEW YORK 473

DIA

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PAGE 02 LISBON 02447 150812Z

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LISBON 2447

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PINS, PO

SUBJ: FAR LEFT PROTESTS DETENTION OF SALDANHA
SANCHES; HIS LAWYER DIES IN AUTO ACCIDENT

REF: LISBON 2388

SUMMARY: NOTED YOUNG MRPP LAWYER KILLED IN CAR
ACCIDENT ON SAME DAY AS MULTITUDE OF FAR LEFT GROUPS
UNITED BRIEFLY TO CALL FOR FREEING OF JAILED MRPP
MILITANT SALDANHA SANCHES. END SUMMARY.

1. JOSE MARIA MARTINS SOARES, 28-YEAR OLD LAWYER
ASSOCIATED WITH DEFENSE OF REVOLUTIONARIES, KILLED
IN CAR ACCIDENT JUNE 12. MARTINS SOARES CURRENTLY HAD
BEEN DEFENDING ARRESTED MAOIST JOURNALIST JOSE LUIS
SALDANHA SANCHES. MARTINS SOARES ALSO KNOWN FOR
REVOLUTIONARY JOURNALISTIC ACTIVITY AS CONTRIBUTOR TO
MAOIST MONTHLY O TEMPO E O MODO, FOR HAVING BEEN A
FOUNDER OF PORTUGUESE-CHINESE FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY, AND
FOR MILITANT ACTIVITY IN BEHALF FAR LEFT REORGANIZED
MOVEMENT OF PROLETARIAN PARTY (MRPP).

2. CONTINUED DETENTION OF SALDANHA SANCHES (REFTEL)
WAS OCCASION FOR JUNE 12 PROTEST RALLY IN DOWNTOWN
LISBON OF MEDLEY OF FAR LEFT GROUPS, NOT INCLUDING MRPP
ITSELF (WHICH LIKES KEEP DISTANCE BETWEEN ITSELF AND
OTHER LEFTISTS). EMBOFFS PRESENT ESTIMATED THAT ABOUT
400 PERSONS PARTICIPATED IN RALLY AND SIMILAR NUMBER
OF PASSERSBY STOPPED TO LOOK ON. SYMPATHETIC PRESS
ACCOUNT IN AFTERNOON DAILY DIARIO DE LISBOA GENEROUSLY
ESTIMATED CROWD AT FIVE THOUSAND AND OBSERVED THAT
GROUPS PARTICIPATING IN THE PROTEST RALLY WERE
UNANIMOUS IN THEIR CONCERN FOR THE PRECEDENT CREATED
AND IN THEIR APPREHENSION FOR THE QUESTIONABLE
DEMOCRATIC LEGALITY OF SALDANHA SANCHES' ARREST.

3. PARTICIPATING EXTREMIST GROUPS INCLUDED:

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PAGE 03 LISBON 02447 150812Z

-PRP-BR (REVOLUTIONARY PARTY OF THE PROLETARIAT-
REVOLUTIONARY BRIGADES);

-LUAIR (LEAGUE OF UNION AND REVOLUTIONARY ACTION);

-LCI (INTERNATIONAL COMMUNIST LEAGUE);

-CBS (COMMISSIONS OF SOCIALIST BASE);

-CIC (COMMITTEES FOR THE IMMEDIATE AND UNCONDITIONAL INDEPENDENCE OF THE COLONIES);

-GAPS (AUTONOMOUS GROUP OF THE SOCIALIST PARTY).

4. COMMENT: THE SPLINTERED EXTREME LEFT REMAINS CAPABLE OF ORGANIZING EVENTS OF HIGH VISIBILITY AND VOLUBILITY. THE FACT THAT SO MANY OF THESE GROUPS MANAGED TO COALESCE FOR LIMITED PURPOSE OF JUNE 12 PROTEST RALLY PROBABLY MEANS THAT THEY SAW GOVERNMENT'S MOVE AGAINST SALDANHA SANCHES AS OPENING STEP BY GOVERNMENT AWAY FROM SIMPLY ANTI-REVOLUTIONARY RHETORIC TO ANTI-REVOLUTIONARY ACTION. (IN OUR OPINION, SUCH A ASSESSMENT WOULD BE CORRECT.) SOARES' FUNERAL JUNE 15 LIKELY PROVIDE SETTING FOR MORE FAR-LEFT PUBLIC EXPOSURE. SCOTT

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